

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RELTZ
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P 090355Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ENRG, BR, GW

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT FROM NOON BRIEFING
3/8/77:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. FRED, IS DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER GOING TO BONN
THIS WEEK TO TALK ABOUT THE GERMAN NUCLEAR SALE?

A. YES, HE IS. HE IS GOING TO BE THERE ON MARCH 10 AND
POSSIBLY THE 11TH, FOR DISCUSSION OF NONPROLIFERATION
ISSUES. HE IS GOING TO GO WITH AN OFFICAL PARTY. I DON'T
HAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY AS YET. I WILL TRY TO GET
THAT FOR YOU CERTAINLY TOMORROW, IF NOT THIS AFTERNOON.
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Q. WHEN IS HE GOING?

A. THE 10TH. THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

Q. FRED, THE WASHINGTON POST YESTERDAY SUGGESTED IN AN EDI-
TORIAL THAT THE METHODS USED SO FAR TO DISSUADE BRAZIL TO

GIVE UP THE AGREEMENT MAY BE BACKFIRING. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS SO FAR OF THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH

BRAZILIANS AND GERMANS?

A. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON THAT SUBJECT ON FRIDAY ABOUT THE TALKS WITH THE BRAZILIANS.

Q. FRED, LAST WEEK YOU SAID THAT YOU DID NOT ACCEPT MY ASSUMPTION ON THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE U.S. NEVERTHELESS, OVER THE WEEKEND THE FIRST PUBLIC NOTE OF PROTEST TO WASHINGTON IN DECADES WAS SENT BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE STORIES IN THE PRESS IN BRAZIL ABOUT RECALL OF AMBASSADORS. THERE ARE STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT BY NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES. DOES THIS THING WORRY YOU?

A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY KIND OF STATEMENT REGARDING WORRY OR CONCERN OR WHAT HAVE YOU. LAST WEEK I SAID THAT I WOULDN'T ACCEPT YOUR TERM --

Q. DO YOU STILL THINK --

A. -- OR YOUR DESCRIPTION OF "DETERIORATION" AND I STILL DON'T ACCEPT THAT. I SIMPLY CAN'T OFFER YOU A VALUE JUDGMENT ON THAT.

Q. FRED, ON THAT MATTER, JUST A DETAIL, WE WERE TOLD UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT UNDER SECRETARY BENSON WAS GOING TO BE IN CHARGE OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS, BUT IT APPEARS THAT CHRISTOPHER IS DOING MOST OF IT. IS THAT JUST BECAUSE BENSON HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED YET, OR WHAT?

A. I SUSPECT THAT WOULD BE ONE ASPECT OF IT, BUT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS AN INTENSELY IMPORTANT ISSUE, AND I THINK IT IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HIMSELF WOULD BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED, AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR, DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON. SO THIS IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS WITHIN THE NORMAL PURVIEW OF THE DEPUTY, AND I THINK THAT WOULD BE THE CONTROLLING FACTOR. MRS. BENSON IS, OF COURSE, INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE PROCESS, BUT THE LEAD MAN IS THE DEPUTY.

Q. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BRAZIL SAID THAT IT WAS GIVING THE REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO BRAZIL AS A MATTER OF DIPLOMATIC COURTESY.

A. YES.

Q. BUT THERE ARE SOME 79 REPORTS. WILL THEY ALL BE GIVEN OUT AS A MATTER OF DIPLOMATIC COURTESY TO EACH ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES, OR HAVE THEY?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON TO WHAT EXTENT THESE OTHER REPORTS ARE BEING TRANSMITTED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. LET ME JUST CHECK ON THAT FOR YOU, JUAN, AND GET YOU A GOOD ANSWER.

Q. FRED, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO RELEASE THIS REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. WELL, THERE ARE 80, AND THEY ARE PART OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION. THEY ARE IN A DOCUMENT THAT GOES UP TO THE HILL. AND AS I MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY, THESE WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE MADE PUBLIC IN DUE COURSE. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHEN THAT WILL BE, BUT IT WILL BE IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

Q. WHAT IS THE CLASSIFICATION OF THIS REPORT? IS IT A SECRET THING THAT WILL BE DECLASSIFIED AFTERWARDS?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE CLASSIFICATION OF EVERY REPORT. THERE ARE 80 OF THEM.

Q. FRED, IN CONNECTION WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS, IN MR. CHRISTOPHER'S TESTIMONY YESTERDAY, HE RAISED A QUESTION, WILL OTHERS SUPPORT US. AND THEN HE WENT ON TO SAY, AS SECRETARY VANCE DID LAST WEEK, THAT MR. OWENS SUPPORTED THE UNITED KINGDOM, SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES IN THIS. WHAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE AMERICAN POSITION, DO YOU KNOW?

A. I FRANKLY DON'T KNOW, MARVIN.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK ON THAT?

A. LET ME CHECK. I NOTICE THE DUTCH CAME OUT WITH A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT LAST NIGHT. BUT LET ME CHECK AND FIND OUT FOR YOU.

END TEXT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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